

Beloved "...whatsoever He doeth shall prosper" (PSALM 1:3)



#### WELCOME

Sinners are welcome at our church. We are a local body of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you spend time with us, you'll soon discover we're an *imperfect* church, with an *imperfect* pastor, yet by God's underserved grace, we preach, believe, and know the *perfect* gospel of our never failing Lord Jesus Christ. Reader, we call His name JESUS for HE SHALL (not might, not maybe) rather HE SHALL save His people from their sins. And beloved believing sinner you already know it — you are *complete in Him*, saved to the uttermost.

*"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"* **JOSEPH D MURPHY**, PASTOR  
sinner@sovereigngrace.us | (832) 995-7925

**Sunday, 10 AM**

**1 TIMOTHY**  
ENGLISH

**Sunday, 11 AM**

**PSALMS**  
ENGLISH

**Domingo, 6 PM**

**ROMANOS**  
ESPAÑOL

**Wednesday, 7 PM**

**1 CORINTHIANS**  
ENGLISH

#### SERVICE TIMES

##### ENGLISH

**Bible Classes** Sun, 10 AM

**Worship Service** Sun, 11 AM

**Bible Study** Wed, 7 PM

##### ESPAÑOL

**Servicio de Adoración** Dom, 6 PM

#### AUDIO PODCASTS

##### AVAILABLE ON ITUNES AND GOOGLE PLAY

**Purposed Grace Sermons**

**Purposed Grace Articles**

##### DISPONIBLE EN ITUNES Y GOOGLE PLAY

**Propósito y Gracia, Sermones**

**Propósito y Gracia, Artículos**

NURSERY AVAILABLE FOR 4 YEARS OLD AND YOUNGER / GUARDERÍA DISPONIBLE

#### RECENT PODCASTS

##### RECENT SERMONS

**God is the judge (PSALM 75)**

**Is Christ divided (1 CORINTHIANS 1:9-18)**

**The Wrath of man... (PSALM 76)**

##### SERMONES RECIENTES

**Justificado por Fe (ROM 3:24)**

**Cristo vino para salvar... (1 TIM 1:15)**

**Nacimiento Nuevo (JUAN 3:7)**

#### DIRECTIONS

We are situated 1 mile south of the Denny's Restaurant located right by the corner of US Highway 59 and State Highway 242.

Show up early and have a cup of coffee with us! 9:30 & 10:30 AM



## **SHOULD CHRISTIANS OBSERVE CHRISTMAS?**

“MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD, ALL THE EARTH:  
MAKE A LOUD NOISE, AND REJOICE, AND SING PRAISE” (PSALM 98:4)

Without fail, at this time every year, I receive numerous letters, pamphlets, and tracts denouncing the evils of Christmas as a pagan religious holiday. I fully agree that no believer should ever observe pagan religious holidays like Christmas and Easter. We must never incorporate pagan customs into the worship of our God.

We must not observe any religious holiday. We should attach no spiritual, religious significance to any day. Yet, we do not need to act like super-pious religious idiots over a day that has absolutely no religious significance. I would never teach a child that such a thing as Santa Claus exist, or that Christ was born on Christmas day. But, as Paul said concerning idols, Santa Claus is nothing and Christmas is nothing.

Did you know that every DAY of the week, every PLANET in the universe, and many of the CARS we drive are named after pagan gods? Yet, we still call Sunday Sunday, Mars Mars, and a Saturn a Saturn. No one would ever dream of calling us pagans for doing so. We worship our God on Sunday, and would laugh at anyone who suggested that we observe the pagan Roman holiday called “Sun’s Day” in doing so. If your car is a Saturn, use it for the glory of God; and laugh at anyone who thinks that you are worshiping the Roman god of agriculture by driving it.

We must not, and I trust do not, worship Christmas trees and lights, or even attach spiritual significance to Christmas day. However, I do suggest that we seize this opportunity afforded us by Divine providence to tell people who Christ is, why He came into this world, what He did, and how they may obtain His salvation. It is no accident that once every year every human being in the world is confronted with the fact that the Son of God assumed human flesh and came into the world to save men.

Certainly, no one can think that it is wrong for believers, during this season of the year, to express thanks and praise to God for His unspeakable gift, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is never wrong, but always right to think of Him, speak of Him, and sing His praise. Rather than singing Watts’ grand old hymn, Joy To The World, [once a year] we ought to sing it year round.

While I loathe the religiosity of this holiday season, the silly plays, the idolatrous pictures and representations of Christ and the angels of God, and pretense of spirituality by people who have no interest in the glory of God; I am delighted for this season of the year (for any season) that brings families together, encourages kindness and good will, and promotes thoughtfulness of and generosity to others. It is perfectly all right to exchange gifts with and send cards to family and friends. (I



cannot imagine a reason for anyone objecting to that!) But I suggest that each of us find a way to acknowledge and do something special for someone from whom we expect nothing, maybe even from someone from whom we expect abuse. Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* — **DON FORTNER**

## **CHRIST-MASS?**

"...HE TOOK BREAD, AND GAVE THANKS, AND BROKE IT, AND GAVE UNTO THEM, SAYING, THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU: THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME. LIKEWISE ALSO THE CUP AFTER SUPPER, SAYING, THIS CUP IS THE NEW TESTAMENT IN MY BLOOD, WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU." (LUKE 22:19-20)

Christmas is coming! Quite so; but what is "Christmas"? Does not the very term itself denote its source — "Christ-mass." Thus it is of Romish origin, brought over from Paganism. But, says someone, Christmas is the time when we commemorate the Savior's birth. Is it? And who authorized such commemoration? Certainly God did not. The Redeemer bade His disciples "remember" Him in His death, but there is not a word in Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, which tells us to celebrate His birth. — **A.W. PINK**

## **JOY TO THE WORLD**

"FOR [OUR HEAVENLY FATHER] HATH MADE [HIS DARLING SON] TO BE SIN FOR US, WHO KNEW NO SIN; THAT WE MIGHT BE MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM." (2 CORINTHIANS 5:21)

I love to sing the hymns about the Savior's birth. The world associates these songs with Christmas, but they are not Christmas carols. They are songs rejoicing in the birth of Christ the Savior. The joy found in these songs is not that a cute baby was born. The joy in these songs is in *why* that baby was born. God was born as a man so He would be able to establish righteousness as the representative of His elect who were sinful men and women. God was born as a man so He could be the substitute for His elect who were sinful men and women, and by His sacrifice for them, He put their sin away. None of that would have been possible unless God became a man. — **FRANK TATE**



## **THE GLORIES OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND THE WONDERS OF HIS LOVE**

[READ PSALM 96 & 98]

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing.  
Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy.  
No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found.  
He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love

— ISAAC WATTS

### **CALENDAR 2019 / 2020**

#### **UP COMING EVENTS**

<b>Fellowship Luncheon</b>	<b>Today!</b>
<b>(At the parsonage)</b>	
<b>Grace Conference</b>	<b>Feb 21, 22, 23</b>
<b>Donnie Bell, Don Fortner</b>	

### **RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

#### **[bookshelf.sovereigngrace.us](http://bookshelf.sovereigngrace.us)**

**Useless Kinds of Religion, J.C. Ryle**  
**Spiritual Autobiography, Joseph Hart**  
**Prodigal Blessing Joseph Hart, J.A. Kingham**  
*"Prove all things..." / "Examinadlo todo..."*

#### **[librero.iglesiadegracia.us](http://librero.iglesiadegracia.us)**

**Artículos de Gracia 2018, Joseph D Murphy**  
**Las ovejas oyen la Voz, Cody Groover**  
**Inmundo o Santo, Joseph D Murphy**

If the Lord puts it on your heart, visit us and ***"Come and see"*** / Si el Señor quiere, ***"Ven y ve"***